

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Firestone Routine Water Sampling Detects Lead in Homes' Internal Water Supply**

### ***Town Water Supply Safe***

**FIRESTONE, Colorado** – Ongoing water testing conducted by the Town of Firestone has discovered that six homes built before 1986 have water within the home's internal plumbing with high lead levels. The lead levels found within these homes exceeded the maximum contaminate level for lead in the drinking water, which is 15ppb. Similar results in 2012 required the Town to embark on a rigorous sampling process. Recent tests have prompted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to require the Town to take 40 samples every six months in 2015, rather than 20 samples every three years, as well as entry point sampling.

Firestone residents should rest assured that the Town water supply is safe. All Town-owned service lines coming into residents homes are type K copper with no lead services. In addition, backflow devices within the system are designed to prevent contamination from residents' internal water plumbing into the Town's system. The Town purchases treated water from Central Weld County Water District, which is delivered to the Carbon Valley area and several other communities through transmission lines from Carter Lake.

The Town of Firestone is concerned about the health of their residents because lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

There are steps people can take to reduce their exposure to lead in their water:

- Run water for 15 to 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- Look for alternative drinking water sources or treatment of water. People may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.
- Test water for lead. You can obtain a list of certified drinking water laboratories through the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Get children's blood tested. Contact a local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.

For more information about the Town of Firestone's Public Water System, ID CO0162476, call 303-833-3544 or visit [www.firestoneco.gov/water](http://www.firestoneco.gov/water) and click on Water Quality Report and Testing for details on how to test water for lead or for more information about lead in water. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead/](http://www.epa.gov/lead/) or contact a health care provider.